

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01379 061601Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 /036 W
-----061716Z 085798 /43

P 061530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9805
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1379

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BR, AR, PA
SUBJ: STROESSNER AND GEISEL TO MEET APRIL 11

1. EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED BY SOURCE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT HE IS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL APRIL 11 AT SANTA CRUZ MILITARY AIR BASE BETWEEN SAO PAULO AND RIO. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THERE IS NO AGENDA FOR THE MEETING, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THE TALKS WILL TOUCH ON THE ITAIPU AND CORPUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AND THE FORTH-COMING VISIT TO PARAGUAY (APRIL 20-22) OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA. STROESSNER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES, FINANCE MINISTER BARRIENTOS, PARAGUAYAN ITAIPU DIRECTOR DEBERNARDI, CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT CESAR ACOSTA, AND GENERALS MARTINEZ, RODRIGUEZ, JOHANNSEN AND CLEBSCH.

2. SENATOR CARLOS SALDIVAR WHO ALSO IS ATTENDING, RELUCTANTLY CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WAS PLANNED IN BRAZIL NEXT WEEK, BUT INDICATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOP DID NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE IT AND SAID HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCLOSE WHAT TOPICS WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESENCE OF BARRIENTOS, DEBERNARDI, AND ACOSTA INDICATE THAT ITAIPU WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS CONSIDERED IN SANTA CRUZ. FROM

THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES
FOUR OF STROESSNER'S TOP MILITARY AIDES, IT SEEMS
PROBABLE THAT BRAZIL'S RECENT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT FURTHER
MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. AND THE CONSEQUENCES
OF THIS GESTURE MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED. IN THIS
CONNECTION THE GOP, UNLIKE ITS NEIGHBORS, HAS BEEN
NOTABLY SILENT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUING CLOSE
U.S.-PARAGUAYAN MILITARY RELATIONS, PROBABLY IN THE
HOPES THAT PARAGUAY MIGHT NOT BE TOUCHED. WHATEVER
THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING, OUR GUESS IS THAT THE TALKS
ARE PROBABLY TAKING PLACE AT PARAGUAY'S INITIATIVE, IN
AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH
BOTH OF ITS HUGE NEIGHBORS, AND TO REASSURE THE GOB
OVER THE IMPENDING VIDELA VISIT.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASUNCIO1379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770120-0311
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770484/aaaacvcx.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 022e54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2887319
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STROESSNER AND GEISEL TO MEET APRIL 11
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BR, AR, PA, (STROESSNER, ALFREDO), (GEISEL, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/022e54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009